

rec ex rambler

"Serious about fun"

Winter 2008

Recreation Excellence publishes the Rambler three times a year.

SALT SPRING ISLAND

Rainbow Road Indoor Pool is very close to completion. The tiling of the tank should be finished by the time you read this, which leaves the deck as the last thing to be completed before we can start to fill'er up! If all goes smoothly we should be swimming by mid March or sooner.



Unfortunately at that time, the community was not ready for a facility of this size and cost.

16 years ago the Salt Spring Aquatic Club was formed and they purchased Shelby Outdoor Pool from Smithers, BC. This

was an above ground structure very similar to the type you may have in a back yard. The Aquatic Club operated Shelby for two or three years at which point they handed it over to the Parks and Recreation Commission here on the island. Recreation Excellence has operated this pool for its last two years of service. Many, many island children have learned to swim in it over the years.

A new indoor pool committee was formed 8 years ago. After many community meetings and hours and hours of research, the project was finally ready and approved by the community. The ground breaking ceremony happened in March 2006 and two years later we are just about there! Many people have been involved for a long time to get this facility built and we are honored to be the group they have chosen to operate it on Salt Spring. By next issue, we will have lots to report on the Grand Opening, and all the exiting programs and events we will be running!

Jim Raddysch
General Manager

IN THIS ISSUE

- Enderby
- Lethbridge
- Corporate
- Langley



Our mandate is your mandate.

NEW CLIENT: PITT MEADOWS!

On December 19th of 2007, Recreation Excellence assumed the operations of a 3 pad arena for the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. The Pitt Meadows Arena is a busy facility and Recreation Excellence has spent the first month of operation getting to know the community, learning about the facility and it's users, meeting staff, and working with our client. It has been a very busy yet exciting month! We look forward to reporting more on this project in the next Rambler - but for now please join with us in welcoming the Pitt Meadows community, client, and staff to our Recreation Excellence team. We are very pleased to be working in Pitt Meadows!

LANGLEY/ALDERGROVE

We are into our fourth ice season here at the George Preston Recreation Centre and the Aldergrove Community Arena. Time sure does fly!



Full Time Employee of the Year 2007, Barb Foster

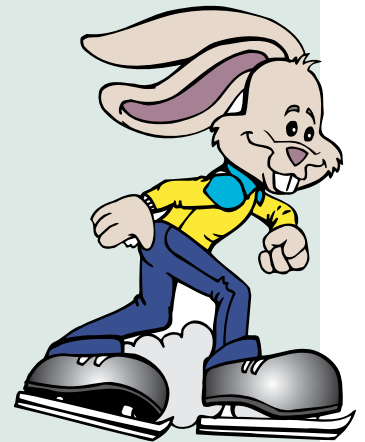
Day. Tim Horton's coffee and donuts were provided and the Lions Club provided hot dogs and chips for all participants. Volunteers from the Community police office were there engraving bicycles and teaching bicycle safety. One lucky participant even made off with a brand new bike!!!

September 8th was the Langley Chiefs Home opener. All of Langley came out to see them win 6-3 against their rivals the Surrey Eagles. Way to go Chiefs!

The BC Breakers women's hockey is back in Aldergrove this year hosting teams from Minnesota, Calgary and Edmonton.

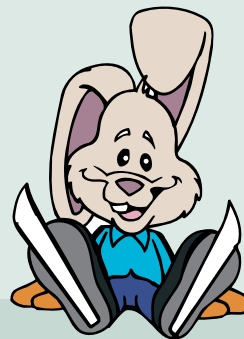
Sept 14-16 was the Fraser Valley Dahlia Show. Participants from all over the

Fraser Valley brought in their award winning flowers as well as a few dahlia animals!! Wild stuff!



Eddie Shack is BACK!!! On Sept 27th, the annual Battle of the Badges game took place, featuring Eddie Shack, Richard Brodeur, and Glenn Anderson. The stars took on the Lower Mainland Paramedic Hockey Team, and, as you may expect, beat the pants off the poor paramedics. But, of course, fun was had by all!

*Norm Kassis,
General Manager*

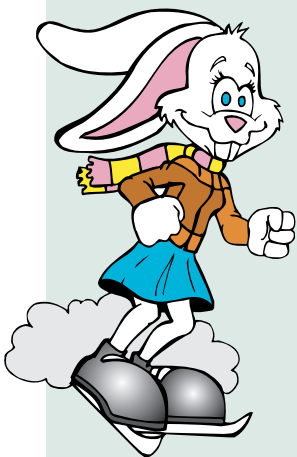


On August 25th Recreation Excellence partnered with the Township of Langley and the local community police office for Safer Communities

Every year in Aldergrove, Recreation Excellence transforms the arena into a Winter Wonderland... But this year we had an even better idea! Garry Rushton and his wife Marilyn along with Layna and Sandra and a few program staff spent the night in Aldergrove painting holiday decorations on the ice. We received so many compliments on this we think that this may become our new winter wonderland decorating scheme!



Marilyn and Garry Rushton



Part Time Employee of the Year 2007, Amy Blaylock

LETHBRIDGE

Another year has come and gone. Seems to me the older I get, the faster they go by. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and all the best in the New Year. And may the year slow down to a pace that suits you!

What's New

It's kind of ironic that "What's New" is that nothing is new - we have no new Supervisors at the Pools. All the same talented Supervisors remain in place at all facilities. The Annual Christmas party was another huge success and a



Staff at the Annual Christmas Banquet

great time was had by all. Thank you to Maria & Tom for providing us with this opportunity to get together.

The City has been working on upgrading the mechanical at Stan

Siwik Pool and is in the final stages. They are also about to do the same at Nicholas Sheran (NSP).

Challenges

At this point in our contract here in Lethbridge, the challenge has become the implementation of value added services that we outlined in our proposal to the City. Much of our focus is taken up with the challenge of staffing the facilities in this economy, however I am confident that we will see these things happen this year.

ENERGY

FALL

September was very busy with minor hockey camps & programs. Regular ice users started in the beginning of October and were itching to get back on the ice.

A Skate with Santa was held on Sunday, December 16th and seventy people came out and joined the fun! Children of all ages (even 70 year olds!) enjoyed skating with Santa, Christmas music and candy!!

The holidays were also busy with minor hockey camps and private bookings.

The arena looks great after completion of the 2007 capital project work in December. These improvements included:

- New cladding added to the inside & outside
- Beams were painted and the white has definitely brightened the inside of the arena. Wow! What a difference!
- New flooring has been installed in the lobby, hallways and dressing rooms.
- All of the showers and washrooms in the dressing rooms had a face lift
- The main washrooms in the lobby have been completely redone
- A considerable amount of work has been done in the refrigeration plant room to bring it up to safety code



- New doors and lighting around the facility have been installed and some painting has been completed inside and outside the facility
- A new portable microphone system has been purchased

Successes

- Successful shutdown at Nicholas Sheran Pool
- Another successful lesson set
- AquaJog social at Stan Siwik Pool

Thank You's

Congrats to the team that completed the shutdown at Nicholas Sheran in December. The kites above the Tots' Pool are a nice touch!

Until We Talk Again!
Brad Pack
General Manager – Lethbridge 🐦

LAST SUMMER

(Editor's note: Enderby was missed in the last issue, so here's what happened during their busy summer season)

The Enderby Lions Outdoor Pool opened in June and nine staff were hired. They were very busy working on School Board lessons, Daycare lessons, Red Cross lessons and private rentals, as well as Specialty lessons, Public Swims, AquaFit and Youth Theme Swims.

The pool staff did an awesome job this summer and most of them plan to return next year. It was a great summer for Enderby swimmers!

Summer was very busy in the Ball Parks in Enderby and Grindrod accommodating the regular leagues, Tournaments and Special Events. The Gazebo in Enderby had many bookings as well, including Pancake breakfasts, Picnics, Family Reunions, Weddings and Receptions.

Maria Badall
Manager of Recreation Services,
Enderby 🐦

Congratulations to our Lethbridge Award Winners:



Part Time Employee of the Year 2007, Nick Pietras



Full Time Employee of the Year 2007, Shauna Walser

CORPORATE

Recreation Excellence is always busy on the corporate front. The company continues to work with the community of Creston in the design phase of their new Aquatic Centre. We are hoping to help them "get in the ground" for construction early this spring.

As well, Recreation Excellence, under the United Recreation banner, continues to work with our partners (McDonald Brothers Construction & Parkin Architecture) in Eastern Canada to explore opportunities together. There are some good opportunities we are exploring in this regard.

Tom Watson (that owner of ours) continues to be a busy guy with speaking engagements in Vancouver, Red Deer, and possibly Paraguay this spring.

In mid January, Recreation Excellence co-sponsored - as it does every year - the Recreation Administrators workshop in Harrison which was attended by nearly 100 senior recreation staff in the province of British Columbia.

The company still is working towards finalizing our agreement to operate the new Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre on Salt Spring Island which should be opening in March of 2008.

Recreation Excellence is looking forward to renegotiating an extension of our contract with the Township of Langley in 2008. The staff in Langley have done a superb job and as a company we very much enjoy the Township and the local users of the facilities. We look forward to extending our relationship with everyone there.

So all in all - things continue to be busy busy busy in the Corporate Office. Hi to everyone from Tom and I hope you have all had a great start to 2008!

Tom Watson, Owner